

THE GUILD OF ST. BARNABAS

IN CHARGE OF

S. M. DURAND

Public Library, Boston



IN reporting the Sixteenth Annual Council, which took place at Philadelphia on November 5 and 6, we do not aim at an exact and business-like account of that delightful occasion,—all that will appear in the printed report,—we only aim to tell the informal and social part of it.

Many thanks are due and were duly and elegantly expressed by Dr. Parker Morgan in his vote of thanks to the Philadelphia Branch for their most kind, cordial, and elegant reception and entertainment of the members and delegates, and from the time when we were met and welcomed in the station to that sad moment when we were sped on our homeward way there was not a blot on our pleasure. The weather was rather damp on Thursday and it rained several times, but we were nearly always under cover, and our cheer within was so great as quite to hide the gloom without.

On Wednesday evening, then, our first service was held at the Church of the Holy Trinity at eight o'clock. The church was well filled, and the service, which was the regular evening prayer, most enjoyable. The volunteer choir was tuneful. Many of the priests associate participated, and Bishop Whitehead and Bishop Murray-Smith graced the scene.

The sermon by the latter divine was most enjoyable, being on the text: "Heal the sick. Freely ye have received, freely give." It contained an account of the revolution which was effected throughout the world by the Christian treatment of the sick, and gave many valuable hints as to the proper conduct of the nurse. Afterwards we repaired to the Parish House and registered, and many were the greetings exchanged as we drank our coffee.

On Thursday morning we met at the Church of the Ascension for Holy Communion at seven-thirty and were afterwards entertained at breakfast in the Parish House. Then followed the conferences of the chaplain-general with the local chaplains and of the general secretaries with the local secretaries, and, after morning prayer, the business meeting, from ten-thirty to one. This was largely taken up with the reading of reports and discussions of the *News-Letter*, as we always call it, though we have none now. After many pros and cons and many, many circumlocutions and much eloquence, it was decided to keep our space in the JOURNAL and to put the question of a sheet of our own in the hands of the general officers. This last motion was that of the Boston chaplain and was finally carried in the afternoon meeting. The questions of some united work for the guild and for action on unification of the sick-relief associations were left till another year. After a delicious lunch at St. Mark's Parish Building, a peep at their exquisite embroideries and beautiful Lady Chapel, we held the afternoon meeting and heard the papers, our number being greatly swelled by nurses from outside. The papers were most enjoyable and we shall probably see them later, and so was Dr. S. Weir Mitchell's address, in which, with his well-known percep-

tion and acumen, he gave us some good advice, dwelling on the necessity for health and exercise among nurses, urging upon us the fact that high character, warm hearts, and good manners were necessary for us all. In the evening we attended a most delightful reception at the house of Mrs. George C. Thomas, at the corner of Twenty-first and Spruce Streets. The house was most beautiful, full of the rarest and most superb art treasures. On the walls were examples of the art of Corot, Alma Tadema, Rousseau, Troyon, Jules Breton, and many others, while exquisite music ravished our ears. Our hosts were so kind and charming that we felt at home. The supper-room was a picture, with its beautifully laid table heaped with the delicacies of the far-famed Philadelphia markets. In fact, we were fed on the fat of the land during our entire stay, and it has been a sad come-down for many of us to boarding-house fare. The next day many indulged in visits to places of interest, hospitals, etc. The Boston delegates went to visit Blockley, but I have no space here to describe that vast place. We shall long remember our delightful visit to Philadelphia.

HARTFORD, CONN.—The Hartford Branch of the Guild of St. Barnabas held its first meeting of the season at the Church of the Good Shepherd on the afternoon of Wednesday, September 24. The religious service, beginning at a quarter past three o'clock, was conducted by the chaplain, the Rev. Dr. Hart. A meeting of associates before and the business meeting and social hour following the service were held in the Memorial Parish-House. Owing to the absence from town of many of the nurses and the long continuance of the "line storm" the attendance was not large, but all present were in the spirit of the occasion, and the afternoon was enjoyable and profitable. A letter was read from Miss Brown, superintendent of the Training-School of the Hartford Hospital, bespeaking the interest and assistance of the members of the guild in preparing for a fair to be held at the Nurses' Home in November for the benefit of the library. The nurses of the school wish to raise a fund for the purchase of desirable and valuable up-to-date text-books on nursing published from time to time to be added to their library as books of reference. Much sympathy was expressed with this praiseworthy object, and a hearty response will doubtless be made to the appeal.

The next meeting of the guild was held at the beautiful Nurses' Home on Jefferson Street on Wednesday evening, October 22. The bright, attractive parlor was well filled with members, associates, and visitors when the hour came for the opening religious service. Dr. Hart made a most helpful address on "Faith," taking for his key-note the words of St. Paul, "Above all, take ye the shield of faith."

The usual business meeting followed the service, at which Mrs. Washburn, associate, and Miss Wilkinson, our visiting nurse, were elected delegates to attend the General Convention of the Guild of St. Barnabas to be held in Philadelphia in November. After the business matters had been discussed the visiting nurse told us some very interesting incidents connected with her work. The evening closed with the bright, informal social hour, when all have an opportunity to clasp hands and become better acquainted over their coffee and cakes.

ORANOE, N. J.—The September meeting was held in Grace Church, Orange, and proved to be one of the most largely attended of any ordinary meeting that could be recalled. After the service, which included an address from the chaplain, the members adjourned to the rector's room in the Memorial Parish House, which

was quickly filled to overflowing. The important items for discussion were the calendar for the year, which had been prepared by the committee in charge, given in detail, and adopted as a whole, and which it is desired will largely take the place of the old postal-card system, which involved much labor and expense. Then the Committee on the Work for the Year gave their report, which included an entirely new idea, which, happily, met with much favor, one which will doubtless prove its own value. A room has been offered in the Visiting Nurses' Settlement for the use of convalescent or nurses suffering from minor ailments not wishing to go to a hospital and unable to receive treatment in their homes, the room to be rented by the guild, the nurse paying a nominal weekly board and to be cared for by the emergency nurses. It meets a need which has lately made itself felt, and we feel thankful that the want is to be soon supplied. It has been made known since the meeting that the generosity of an associate will furnish the room, and means will be taken by the branch to meet the rent without encroaching on the treasury. Tea was hastily served before the conclusion of the session, as the business had encroached on the social time.



RULES FOR BURIAL FOLLOWING DEATH FROM INFECTIOUS DISEASE.—The Maryland State Board of Health has published the following regulations regarding the disposal of the bodies of those who have died of any infectious disease: "In every case of death from cholera, bubonic plague, or smallpox, the body is to be taken charge of at once by the local health officer and buried or cremated within twenty-four hours. Transportation of such bodies by rail or steamer is absolutely forbidden. Such a body must be prepared for burial with as little disturbance of its immediate surroundings as possible. It shall be wrapped in the bedcoverings, secured by bandages; shall be placed in a tight coffin; the wrappings shall be saturated with forty per cent. formalin or solution of bichloride of mercury, 1 to 500, and the coffin shall be closed at once. In the discretion of the local health officer a competent undertaker may be allowed to embalm such a body, provided the body be not removed for that purpose from the spot where death occurred. The vehicle in which such a body has been transported to the place of burial shall be washed in a solution of bichloride of mercury, 1 to 1000. In every case of death from diphtheria, membranous croup, or scarlet fever, the body shall be prepared at once for burial by arterial or cavity embalming, or by covering with a layer of absorbent cotton not less than one inch thick, securely bandaged or rolled in a sheet, this covering to be saturated with a solution of forty per cent. formalin, or bichloride of mercury, 1 to 500, and the body to be enclosed in a tight coffin at once. The head and face need not be thus covered, provided the scalp and face and the cavities of the mouth and nose have been disinfected with an approved germicidal solution. The lead of the coffin may have a fixed glass panel over the face to permit inspection, but not such as will permit exposure to the air. It shall be unlawful to open the coffin, except on written consent and in the presence of a local health officer. Only persons of adult age shall act as pall-bearers in such cases. Interment shall be made within twenty-four hours of the time of death. Only members of the immediate household and necessary attendants shall be admitted to the house."